EMIGRATION.

COPY OF

A LETTER,

FROM

Mr. JOHN FREEMAN,

RESIDING AT

GODERICH,

LAKE HURON, UPPER CANADA,

DATED THE 21st OF JUNE, 1832,

Together with a Letter, and Extracts of Letters from Settlers in the Huron Tract, and other parts of Upper Canada;

CONTAINING

Useful information respecting that Country.

FRAMLINGHAM:

W. D. Freeman, Printer, Bookseller, &c.

L20069

MARCH 10, 1958

ld-frame, ... proc... ... made, so that ... warm days arrive you are ...onstructed of...

Goderich, Lake Huron, Upper Canada, 21st, June, 1832.

DEAR COUSIN WILLIAM,

I shall be happy to give you all the information I possibly can, in reply to your Letter which I received the 19th inst. You wish for a description of this Country. This new Country, as you may suppose, is covered with Trees as thick as they can stand ; quite a Forest. There are plenty of Deer, but no venomous Animals to hurt any one. There are no Rattle Snakes here, and no Vipers, excepting what is called a Garter Snake, which is very harmless indeed. Wolves are to be heard howling in the Woods, and we have the Black Bear also travelling there, and if they can, they will take away Pigs ; if they see any of us they will take themselves away, they are more afraid of us than we are of them. I know not one thing to make us afraid. We are troubled this Month with Musquitoes, I think they are small Gnats, but let not a Gnat frighten us.

We had a long Winter, which lasted four Months, the Snow was two feet in depth ; it was beautiful Sleighing. Winter is a good time for Farmers to take their Grain to Market, and is also the best time to clear Land.

DEAR WILLIAM, when I arrived here, this Country had not the same appearance as it bears now. Where I now live, it was all a Wood and there was no Road; now there is a beautiful large opening intended for a Market House and Public Buildings, and also a good Road to York Town, six rods wide. There is an opening of eight acres for a Market Place, it is in the shape of an octagon.

I have sold my House on the Market Square, by which I cleared upwards of one hundred Dollars. If you were to offer me the sum of one thousand Pounds to live again in England, it would not in the least tempt me. I intend giving up my Carpentering Trade in November next, and working wholly upon my Farm, as I have an excellent Farm Lot of 163 acres. I shall have three acres of Wheat

in ready for Harvest. Clearing and fencing of three acres cost me only fifty Dollars. If all is well, I shall have ten or twelve acres more for next Spring. If I clear ten acres every Year I shall soon have a good large Farm. I shall not build a good House the first Year, only a Shanty, about 16 feet by 20 feet, which is built with Logs and covered in with Bark, which makes it very comfortable. It is built in one Day by making a "*Bee*," viz. all Neighbours come and help us for one Day.

My Trade is very good here, I and my Brother Thomas have earned 24 Dollars in one Week, and I should wonder and murmur if we did not make 18 Dollars per week. We do not always stick to work, for somtimes we are called away to "*Bees*." Lazy Men can do themselves no good here, pray advise no lazy Men to come, for I hate to see a lazy fellow. We in general get Cash for Work. When I work for the Canada Company, I take half Cash, and the other half I set off towards paying for my Land. Land is sold for 7*s*. 6*d*. an acre not cleared. Our money runs 5*s*. a Dollar, 4 Dollars one Pound, a Sovereign makes 24 Shillings here. It is best to bring all Sovereigns. If you buy wild Land it will cost 15 or 16 Dollars an acre to get it ready for Crop, Fencing is included in that sum. You mention building. You would not like to build a good House at first, it would take so long a time. A Shanty will do very well for the first Year or two, for it would not do to neglect getting in a Crop. When your Crop is in, then attend to Building as much as you please. I will take the Job for you, build you up a good hewed Log House, 20 feet by 30 feet, with a good Brick Chimney, and finish it complete, for one hundred Pounds. But you must find Bricks. There is a Gentleman going to make one Hundred Thousand Bricks on my Land this Summer, I give him leave to do it, and charge him nothing for "*messing*" on my Land.

Men in this Country understand clearing Land better than your Labourers. If you were to bring out Labourers with you, they would soon think themselves independent; particularly if they were not lazy Men; they would not stay with you long, they would soon work and get 100 acres of Land and turn Farmers themselves. This is a good thing for industrious Men, encourage industrious Men all you can.

Wheat is not less than one Dollar a bushel, ready Money as soon

warm days arrive

as delivered, and there are Merchants to buy all kinds of Grain. The price of Flour is seven Dollars per barrel, of 196 pounds. We sow all the Wheat here. Indian corn is hoed in. The Land is not ploughed for the first three or four Years. We use no Horses the first three or four Years, excepting for pleasure. Oxen answer the purpose much the best. A yoke of Oxen costs 60 Dollars. A Cow 16 Dollars. Our Wheat is very poor. Pray oblige me and send me half a peck of good Fall Wheat, half a peck of Spring Wheat, half a peck of good Barley, and a few good Oats. Tell my Brother Richard to send me some of all kinds of Seeds, which I hope he will not neglect. Send me one ounce of Quinine, it is the only thing that will cure the Ague and Fever (it is extracted from Peruvian Bark); be sure you do not come without some, as it is much cheaper in England than here.

Cattle are not much trouble, they keep quite fat all the Summer by running in the Woods; during the Winter they live upon Wheat Straw; should a Person have no Straw, they will live well upon the tops of Trees, when chopped down. A great many Cattle have nothing all the Winter but the tops of Trees, of which if they have plenty, it will keep them quite fat.

We live upon Pork, Beef, Pigeons, Fish, Venison, (we had some Venison for Dinner to day,) plenty of Eggs, Butter, Custards, Pies, Hams, Milk, Tea and Coffee. We grow our own Vegetables. Butter and Cheese are made the same as in England. If a Person takes one or two hundred acres of Land and goes upon it at once, he needs £. 100, which sum will supply him and family well, if industrious, they might make out with a less sum, only they would have to work for different people to get such things as they would want. This sum of Money would supply them with provisions the first Year.

Farming Implements are not worth bringing, such as Ploughs, for they are not required for three or four years. Bring a set of Harrows' Teeth, for they are the first article required. Do not bring any Axes with you, for we have the best Axes here. Bring all light Irons that are useful, Ropes, &c., and all the Tools you have. Bring plenty of Bedding, Blankets, and Clothes; and supply yourself well with all kinds of Wearing Apparel, Shoes, &c. Bring no Furniture with you, only what is small, such as a portable Writing Desk, and a few

little things. We use no Coal, but burn Wood. We burn all the Wood off the Farm. Where I shall live, is the most respectable neighbourhood on the Huron Tract, and is situated about eleven Miles from the Town. I have given up the Land I first took, and have situated myself much better. A Stage Coach runs past my Farm to York Town once a Week. Four Schooners sail regularly. Goderich will be a good place for Trading and Farming, much better than Guelph on account of the Water. The best way to come here is to come by Quebec, which is a much cheaper passage, and your Chests are not searched. The Canada Company have a conveyance from Quebec. If you come by New York, your Chests will be searched. The Steerage Passage is good enough for any one, and you are as safe there as in the Cabin. Take on Board some Flour, Sugar, Raisins, and some Pork Lard, one or two dozen of Eggs, some Lemons, a few Oranges, some Oatmeal, &c. you will find these things very useful during the voyage, and be provided against sickness.

A Grist Mill would answer and pay well; I believe it would be the best thing a Young Man could speculate upon, and if I had Capital sufficient, Goderich should not long be without a Malting House and Brewery. Let no Young Man fear to venture upon this undertaking, for in a few Years it would pay for itself. We cannot buy Malt under one Dollar a bushel at York, and I am sure it would sell here for 1½ Dollar. If there be not a Malting House erected here within three Years or less, I shall build one on my Farm. It is what I have been thinking of for some time, and there is no one in Goderich knows any thing about Malting, which is a very profitable business. If you think about building a Mill or Malting, I should not be afraid to go with you half parts. I could myself erect the Frame and complete the Building, except a few of the Works or Machinery, and one Millwright could complete any thing of the kind. Should you think of taking this alone, (or any one else) make no delay in letting me know; then I will secure you a good lot of Land for the purpose, about 200 acres, with a little River running through the centre of the two lots. The lots consist of 100 acres each lot. This is a most excellent place for Machinery. Write to me as early as possible, for I am fearful these lots will be taken before I hear from you.

warm days

I have endeavoured to answer your Letter to the best of my ability, and what I have written I should not be afraid of publishing, for it is truth. When you come to Goderich *bring this Letter with you*, then you will need no greater proof of its truth. On the spot its truth will be self demonstrated.

You will oblige me by letting my Family peruse this Letter, I should have written to them, if you had not particularly requested me to write to you.

Your well wisher, &c

(*Signed*) JOHN FREEMAN.

To Mr. William Dove,

Leiston, near Saxmundham,

Suffolk.

From Edward Boxall, late resident at Coldwaltham, Sussex, formerly a Soldier in the 36th Regiment.

Adelaide, Upper Canada, 28th July, 1832.

Dear Mother,

I take this opportunity to acquaint you that we arrived here safe and in good health, on the 6th July. Dear Mother I was very fortunate in bringing my discharge with me, for I found when I landed at York, on the 23rd June, that all who could shew their discharge, was entitled to one hundred acres of Land, from the Crown for their service, which I accordingly got, so if either of my Nephews or both of them should like to come over here, I will give them some land to work upon. Tell them to bring some tools and all the money they can get with them, and some Upland seed of all description, Garden Seeds, and Barley in particular. William Cooper's Land joins mine, but he have got to pay two dollars per acre for his, and six years to do it in. There is a River run through the corner of my lot and plenty of Fish in it, and here is wild Deer, and Turkeys, Pheasants, Patridges, and Rabbits, and any body may kill them. Catharine is very well at present, but she was very sea sick coming

over for some time; she sends her kind love to Ruth and all their Brothers and Sisters, and all Friends. Copy this letter and send to my Sisters and tell them I will build them a House if they will come over here to live. So no more at present, from yours,

(Signed) EDWARD & CATHARINE BOXALL.

Extract of a Letter from William Cooper, late residing at Graffham, Sussex, addressed to Mr. James Cooper, of Graffham, and dated Adelaide, Upper Canada, 28th July, 1832.

"I have been very well ever since I left England, we were seven weeks coming to Montreal, and five weeks more coming up to Kettle Creek, I have got 100 acres of land, at 2 dollars per acre, and one fourth to be paid for at the end of 3 years, and the rest in 3 years more. In English money it comes to, £41. 13*s*. 4*d*. in all. Tell my Brother James, I saw Richard Carter and his Wife, at Little York, they are doing very well and said this would be a good opportunity for them to come out to this Country. I should like for all my Brothers to come here, for here is plenty of work and no doubt but we shall do very well after next Harvest.

Edward Boxall and his Wife, and William Phillips, from Merston, and we have built us a Shantee, and lives and works all together on our own land, we have got above 2 acres cleared, and shall sow 6 or 7 acres of Wheat this Autumn and more in the Spring."

Extract of a Letter from Richard Neal, late of Sutton, Sussex, to his Friends at home, dated Dundas, North America, 20th July, 1832.

"I was offered 5*s*. 6*d*. per day at Montreal but I did not wish to stop, we went into the woods and found plenty Morels just like them in England, but the people did not know what they were, then we started for Little York, which is about 500 miles further all by Water. When we landed at York some went one way

some the other, I stopped there. Elias and Joseph Leggett went on with Hutton, 180 miles further, they promised to write to me, but I have had no Letter from them, but I saw two men that went up with them, they told me that they both got work for one man, and Sefton Charman's Wife's Brothers; they have got a good place 12 dollars a month and their board. A Man will get more a month here with his board, than in England without. I have not seen any Game about here, but there are Pheasants, Hares, thousands of Pigeons, and a few Bears, and Wolves but a very few, there are a great many Cherries in the Woods, Currants, and Gooseberries. I promised to send you the state of the Country, I will as well as I can. This is a good Country for one thing, the people are all of one sort pretty much, their servants lives with their masters and they get good wages. I left York and went to Dundas, and got a job there for an Englishman the name of Pope, he has been here five years, and is doing very well, I have 5*s*. a day board and lodging, for which I have to take 2*s*. 6*d*. a day in store what they call, you must take Clothes, Shoes, or Hats, or any thing that your master work for. I take 15*s*. a week paid in money. Clothes are very dear here. Any man can earn enough in 3 days to keep a Wife and Family a week. Dear Father and Mother do not make yourselves uneasy about me, for I am doing very well, Bricklayer is a good Trade here, and can earn a great deal of money after you get known. Tell James Clark that I do not persuade him to come over to stay here, but here is plenty of work and good pay."

Extract of a Letter from George Hill, late a Labourer, at Sullington, Sussex, dated Ancaster, Upper Canada, 5th August, 1832.

"We have been here five weeks; I like the Country here very much, but my Wife don't seem to be quite so well contented yet. I got work the first day I got here, and have had plenty of work ever since. I got six shillings per day, (New York currency) which is 3*s*. 9*d*. English money, and be boarded. Farmers and Labourers all sit at one table here. We get 5*s*. english money

per day in Harvest and boarded. I know that a poor man can do a great deal better here than he can at home, he is sure to get plenty of work if he is steady, and he can live cheaper. Puddock and me have rented a very good House at £1. per month english money

I have bought a Cow for £5. and a young Sow for 12*s*. 6*d*. We work here from sun rise to sun set, but we don't work so hard as we do at home, we rest through the day very often; they are not so particular here about losing a little time as they at home. Jane (she is 12 years old) is out at service for a year, at 10*s*. per month, english money. George (aged 10) is with a Mr. Gabriel Gurnett, late from Horsham, Sussex, a Saddler. Dear Father and Mother, we left you almost brokenhearted, but you may be satisfied that we have bettered our condition by coming here."

Extract of a Letter from John Capelain, to his Brother, dated Huron Tract, Upper Canada, 28th August, 1832.

"I can see a prospect for a good living to be got, Flour is 7 dollars a barrel, which is 3½ bushels, that is the highest price, after another harvest it will be lower no doubt as we shall all grow our own, and it is now brought a long way up the Country. Mutton I kill and sell out, I can afford to sell it 3*d*. per lb. Beef 2½*d*. Butter about 9½*d*. but I shall keep a Cow and make my own next Summer, I have no keep for a Cow this Winter.

Dear Brother, if my brother William could take the heart to come there shall be a home for him, as soon as he comes, for I have got a comfortable House up, and 100 acres of Land full of timber, and he shall have part of it, but I will not persuade any one to come, tho' I can see a much better prospect here than in England, if he should, let him bring what ready money he can and not provide a parcel of things as I did, for things are as cheap here as in England, and tools cheaper, let him bring a few one sided Oats, a little Barley, Gooseberry, and Currant cuttings."

Extract from a Letter of Allan & Elizabeth Puddock, who emigrated with the Petworth Party, from Sullington, Sussex, dated Ancaster, Upper Canada, 6th August, 1832.

"We like this place very well, Allan had 3*s*. 9*d*. per day and board; now he is hired for a twelvemonth for 26 pounds. We got places for the Girls the day we came here, 15*s*. per month for Harriet (12 years old), and 10*s*. for Charlotte (10 years old), they both like their places well, there is no out-door work for the Women, they have nothing to do but sleep and eat. We have got two Pigs, we can buy the best of pollard at 2*s*. per hundred, which is about 3 bushels; two bushels of wheat for 10*s*. and flour is as good as in England. Meat is 2½*d*. per pound, pork is about £1. per hundred, butter is 7½*d*. per pound, sugar 6½*d*. and tea 5*s*. per pound. Dear Mother, if you were here, you could get a good cup of tea, and that large box, that Elizabeth give you full of snuff for ½*d*. One of our shillings goes for two here all but one penny, for they call the halfpence pence.

Dear Sister Mary, if you had come with us, it would have been the means of making your fortune, you could have seven dollars per month, one dollar is five shillings english. This is a good country for fruit, cherries, plums; and apples for the gathering of them. The Farmers they all sit down to eat together, they go without Shoes or Stockings here, there are not many stones to cut their feet. The rule here is to work from sun rise to sun set, it is not as it was at home, we can have a day or two when we have a mind to, we have no call to ask our master, we go when we have a mind ourselves."

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Heming, to his Mother, dated Nyton Farm, Upper Canada, 25th September, 1832.

"Since my last letter I have been so engaged getting in my harvest, &c. &c. that I have hardly known which way to turn myself. I have bought 134 more acres of land, with 30 in crop, and a log house to put my Chaise into. I have now 367 acres in all; the last lot is only 3½ miles from Guelph, the same road as my first purchase. Emigration has so greatly increased this year, that

before this letter reaches you all the land within 8 miles of Guelph will be sold. It is in my opinion a most beautiful Country, and excellent land. I am going to build a good log house, to get into before the Winter sets in; my Stock at present consists of 1 yoke of Cattle, 10 Pigs, 1 Cow and Calf, 1 Poney, Neptune and another Dog, 1 Cat, and 30 Fowls, including Hens and Chickens. My land is paid for excepting the 100 acres bought of the Canada Company. The improved land sells for much more than we conceived in England; quite rough land sell for 17*s*. 6*d*. per acre, if at all in a desirable situation. I have not been up to Lake Huron, therefore I can only speak from report; but I am told land of the best quality there, sells for 11*s*. 6*d*. per acre.

Extract of a Letter from Wm. T. Upton, who emigrated with the Petworth Party; to Mr. G. Warren, Petworth, dated Andross Mills, Niagara District Grand River, 16th September, 1832.

"I dare say you have had bad accounts of Canada, from the Petworth Party, for I know that they wrote home in the midst of their trouble in travelling, before they they knew what it was, or had time to get situations. I went from York to Hamilton, and after a week's illness and quite broke down for money, I got a situation at Mr. Kersey's Saw Mills, on the bank of the Grand River, at 12*s*. 6*d*. per week, board and lodging. I am the lowest, not understanding it, the others from £1. to £1 12*s*. per week. I enquired at York and Hamilton, Cabinet Makers wages, which is 30*s*. per week, board and lodging, and plenty of trade to be got. I have been in my place now 9 weeks, and what with my wages, and what I have made with them, I am now worth £8 10*s*. there is a man of property in 9 weeks. .....if trade is as bad as is was, any one would do better in Canada, for here any one can soon get an independency.

Tell J. Lucas, that his brother Ned and C. Edwards, are living close to me; they get 11*s*. 3*d*. per week, board and lodging, and are quite steady. Write as soon as possible. I cannot give you a more true account of the price of provisions than Doyle's 'Hints to Emigrants.' There were plenty given to the people about Petworth."